projects in 1990-91 in 33 selected cities/towns/border areas. Some of the major findings of the studies are as under:—

(i) Drug abuse is not religion/caste specific;

(ii) Though the worst group affected is in the age of 16—35 years but substantial number even starts before the age of 16 years;

(iii) Marital status was not found to be correl-ated to the prevelence of drug abuse;

(iv) Males (96.5%) were more given to drug abuse than females (2.5%);

(v) Lower income groups are more susceptible;

(vi) Drugs most commonly abused were cannabis, herein and raw opium;

(vii) The source of supply of drugs is by peddlers operating through shopkeepers and panwalas;

(viii) A large proportion of addicts were either unemployed, labourers, transport workers or studnets;

(ix) Curiosity and pear pressure were the main reasons for drug abuse. Medical reasons were given by 20% addicts.

(x) There was an awareness about the ill-effects of drug on both the individual and his family.

(d) A Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention is being implemented by this Ministry to provide financial assistance to voluntary organisations for running Drug Awareness, Counselling and Assistance Centres. De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres for the counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and also for awareness generation among the masses against drug abuse and alcoholism. Under this scheme, 90% of the approved annual expenditure is provided by this Ministry and the remaining 10% is to be borne by the voluntary organisations themselves. Universities/Institutes of Social Work/Institutes of Higher Learning are however provided 100% assistance under the scheme.

Identification of Drought Affected Areas

1273. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the chronically drought affected areas in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to assist the farmers to grow some alternative crops in those areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) 946 blocks in 149 districts of 13 States have been identified as drought prone for implementation of the Drought Prone Areas Programme from 1995-96. The State-wise details are given below:

Sl. No.	State	No. of districts	No. of blocks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	94
2.	Bihar	16	121
3.	Gujarat	10	52
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3	9
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	22
6.	Karnataka	11	80
7.	Madhya Pradesh	25	134
8.	Maharashtra	22	148
9.	Orissa	5	47
10.	Rajasthan	10	32
11.	Tamil Nadu	13	80
12.	Uttar Pradesh	17	91
13.	West Bengal	4	36
	TOTAL	149	946

(c) and (d) Government of India circulate a Model Contingency Plan every

Year to all the State Governments. This enables the State Governments to prepare their own contingency plans based on previous experience and the research findings of the State Agricultural Universities to mitigate the effects of aberrations in rainfall.

Yearly quantum of Pesticides and Weedicides Used

1274. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of pesticides and weedicides used every year for the last three years, quantity-wise, cost-wise; and year-wise;

(b) whether residues of these chemicals remain in the agricultural produce; and

(c) whether the residual presence is tolerable and acceptable to human consumption in India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The consumption of various pesticides and weedicides for the last three years as submitted by the representatives of the States/UTs in National/Zonal Conferences on inputs held during each year in Kharif and Rabi season is annexed at A. (*see* below). The price of the insecticide formulations varies from State to State due to various factors like cost of inputs, Central & State taxes and levis etc. A comperative Statement of the prices of major pesticides is annexed at—B (*see* below).

(b) When used as per recommendation following Good Agricultural Practices (i.e. proper dose on recommended plants, observation of waiting period etc.), no significant quantity of residues would remain.

(c) Government of India has prescribed the tolerance limit to 50 pesticides under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Codex Committee on Pesticide residues of Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization at international level have also prescribed guideline level of various pesticide residues on food commodities. If the residual presence are within these prescribed tolerance limits, the same is acceptable for human consumption.

Statement A

Statement on the Consumption of Pesticides

S. No.	Year	Total Consumption in M.T.
1.	1992-93	70,794
2.	1993-94	67,881
3.	1994-95	63,267

Statement B

Price of Commonly used Pesticides (In Formulated Form)

In rupees per Lit/Kg.

S. No.	Name of Pesticides	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Endosulfan 35% EC	141	149	160
2.	Monocrotophos 36% SL	237	248	237
3.	Phospomidan 85% SL	261	270	293
4.	Dimethoate 30% EC	127	131	132